

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

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OASD/ISA/NEASA - CDR SICK

EUR/NE - J CROWLEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008360

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, XO, US, UK

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA AGREEMENT

1. WE HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ASKED HMG FOR ADVANCE APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION ON DIEGO GARCIA WHILE WE WAIT FOR SIGNATURE OF AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT. WE AGAIN MADE THIS REQUEST TO BRITISH EMBASSY (MILLINGTON) ON JAN 12, BUT WERE INFORMED THAT SUCH APPROVAL WOULD PROBABLY TAKE AS LONG AS FINAL ACTION ON THE AGREEMENT. NEVERTHELESS, ON OFF CHANCE THAT ADVANCE APPROVAL MIGHT BE GRANTED OR THAT BRITISH MIGHT BE ABLE TO SPEED UP SIGNATURE PROCESS IF DIFFICULTIES FACED BY DOD WERE KNOWN, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO PASS FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO FCO.

2. DOD ADVISES THAT CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL ON DIEGO GARCIA WILL SOON BE INCREASINGLY UNEMPLOYED AS WORK ON PREVIOUS PROGRAM IS COMPLETED AND NEW WORK USING FY 75 FUNDING IS DELAYED AWAITING BRITISH APPROVAL OF AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT. PROBLEM IS PAR-
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TICULARLY SEVERE WITH RESPECT TO DREDGING CONTRACTOR.

IN ORDER TO AVOID NEW MOBILIZATION COSTS NAVY HAS
ENTERED INTO CHANGE ORDER WITH DREDGE CONTRACTOR WHO
HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHING PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED AND FUNDED

WORK TO PROVIDE DREDGE FILL FOR RUNWAY EXTENSION.
AS OF 15 JANUARY, CONTRACTOR'S EQUIPMENT WILL BECOME
IDLE AWAITING AUTHORITY TO START NEW WORK. DELAYS WILL
COST US NAVY 9000 DOLLARS PER DAY. IN ADDITION, NEARLY
70 USN PERSONNEL WILL BE AVAILABLE WITH NO PRODUCTIVE
WORK BY 20 JANUARY.

3. PLEASE REQUEST THAT INTERIM APPROVAL BE GRANTED AT
LEAST FOR DREDGING OPERATIONS AND INITIAL EARTHMOVING
OPERATIONS FOR RUNWAY EXTENSION IF AD REFERENDUM
AGREEMENT CANNOT BE SIGNED BEFORE 15 JANUARY. KISSINGER

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